

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were presented for examination and stand rejected. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended; and new claims 17-30 have been added. Applicants thank the Examiner for examination of the claims pending in this application and address the Examiner's comments below.

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5). In response, new corrected drawings are submitted. Applicants respectfully request entry of the corrected drawings.

The specification has been objected to due to minor informalities. Applicants have amended the specification to correct the informalities. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw his objection to the specification.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Will (U.S. Patent Serial No. 5,825,353). In response, claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been amended.

Amended claim 1 recites:

A handheld device for navigating among a plurality of menus and within individual menus, each menu comprising at least one menu item, the device comprising:
a first button to cause a cursor to navigate within a menu **when no selection command has been received for the menu** and to highlight a desired menu item within the menu; and
a second button, wherein:
when the cursor is highlighting one of the menus or a first menu item in a menu, the second button causes the cursor to navigate from one menu to another; and

when the cursor is highlighting a menu item other than the first menu item in a menu, and **no selection command has been received for the menu**, the second button causes the cursor to navigate within the menu. (Emphasis added).

The claimed invention, as recited in claim 1, is a handheld device that requires only two buttons to navigate among a plurality of menus and within individual menus. The first button is for navigating within a menu, i.e., for moving from one menu item to another. The second button performs two functions. In some situations it allows a user to navigate from one menu to another; in other situations it allows a user to navigate within a menu. An advantage of the claimed invention is that it does not require any selection of a menu in order to navigate within a menu. Independent claim 6 is a "means plus function" claim that recites features similar to the ones recited in claim 1. Claims 16, 21, and 26 recite features similar to the ones recited in claim 1. Claim 11 recites a method performed by the system of claim 1.

Will does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Will discloses a handheld device for navigating among a plurality of menu items, such as the ones shown in the main menu of Fig. 1 and navigating within sub-menu items, such as the ones shown in Fig. 8g. Will explicitly requires that the user select a menu item (menu) to navigate within its sub-menu items (menu items). Indeed, at col. 2 lines 56-66, Will discloses:

"Movement of the thumbwheel up or down results in corresponding movement of the designated item in the menu. The user then presses a selector button to complete the choice."

Similarly, at col. 10, lines 36-43, Will discloses:

“The selection of the "Time" item in FIG. 1 displays a screen (not shown) that displays the time of day, date, and day of the week and includes a "Set time" selection that initiates the screen shown in FIG. 8g.”

Similarly, at col. 17, lines 55-57, Will discloses “actuating a switch to complete the selection of said desired menu item.”

Thus, in Will, a user cannot navigate within a menu without first selecting a menu. The claimed invention, in contrast, makes it clear that there is no need to select a menu to switch to the function of navigating within a menu. Indeed, paragraphs [0024] and [0025] of the specification make it clear that the ability to navigate within a menu depends on what is currently highlighted and does not require any explicit selection of the menu by the user, unlike the prior art. Accordingly, Will does not disclose or suggest at least “a first button to cause a cursor to navigate within a menu when no selection command has been received for the menu and to highlight a desired menu item within the menu,” as claimed.

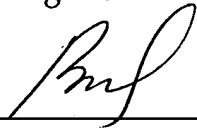
Claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17-20, 22-25, and 27-30 depend either directly or indirectly from independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26 respectively and derive their patentability from the independent claim from which they depend, in addition to reciting their patentable features.

Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-30, as presented herein, are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference (including references cited, but not applied). Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of these claims. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the above amendments and remarks, or if the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with Applicants' representative would help to advance the prosecution of this case to finality, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey C. Hawkins, Robert Y. Haitani,
Debbie O. Chyi, William B. Rees and
Vitaly Kruglikov

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By: 
Rimma Budnitskaya,
Reg. No. 48,237
Fenwick & West LLP
801 California Street
Mountain View, CA 94306
Phone: (415) 875-2401
Fax: (650) 938-5200